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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Comptroller

DATE: 24 AUG 1959

FROM : Chief, Budget Division

SUBJECT: Security of House Committee Appropriation Letter

1. On Thursday, 13 August 1959, we received a call that the letter on the 1960 appropriation was available and could be picked up. In a discussion with Mr. Sprankle I asked him about the delivery of the letter to the Bureau and he stated that they were taking care of it. I asked concerning the method of delivery of the letter and indicated that we would be glad to deliver it for the Committee. He reacted unfavorably to the suggestion and more or less questioned the suggestion. I then stated that one of the letters from the Committee, as I recalled, had been delivered to the Bureau of the Budget in an insecure manner and had been opened by uncleared employees of the Bureau and, further, had been, as I understood it, handled more or less as a regular piece of unclassified mail. He explained to me that he had called and asked them to send some one from the Bureau to pick up the letter.

2. I then called the Bureau and found that Mr. Ecker had received a call from the Director's office to pick up a letter from the House Appropriations Committee. I then told Mr. Ecker of my discussion with Mr. Sprankle and stated that I was glad to know that he was the one to pick it up.

3. When I went to Mr. Sprankle's office and picked up the CIA copy of the letter, he reopened the question and stated that he resented the implication that they did not handle the matter securely. He indicated that they had always known who the letter was being picked up by and it was always picked up by a cleared representative of the Bureau. My response was a little bit indefinite since I told him that I had not been directly involved in the handling of the letters during the particular period. I stated that although my memory could be faulty on the matter I was quite sure that one letter had been delivered to the Bureau through uncleared channels as a regular piece of mail. Mr. Sprankle stated that he wanted to get to the bottom of this since he did not want us to have any idea that they handled anything in an insecure manner. I then told him that you had been directly concerned at the time and that you could give him the full story. This led into a rather brief discussion on security in CIA with Mr. Sprankle and Mr. Wilson who was also sitting at his desk in the same room. They both indicated that they had the feeling that the Agency was too sensitive about security, that there was too much

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emphasis on clearance, etc. Although I did not pursue the problem to any extent I did indicate that I too felt the same way when I was first employed by the Agency. I also told him that after becoming more acquainted with the programs and the security and personnel problems of the Agency, however, I became convinced that the procedures were sound and for the benefit of the Government.

4. At the close of the discussion I informed Mr. Sprankle again, in view of his statement that he wanted to know the details of the incident which I referred to, that I would ask you to call him and describe the precise instance.

5. After leaving Mr. Sprankle's office I went to Fran Hewitt's office in the new Senate Office Building and showed him the copy of the letter signed by Mr. Cannon. Mr. Hewitt made a thermofax copy of the letter after asking me if it would be all right. I noted that the copy of the letter given me by Mr. Sprankle indicated that a copy of it was being sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. I asked Mr. Hewitt if he knew what method would be used in delivering that copy and he indicated some surprise that a copy was being sent to him. He also stated that most of the employees of the Senate Committee were not even aware of the fact that he handled the CIA budget and he was uncertain as to the method they would use in delivering the letter to the Senate Committee. It is my opinion that we should check on this question later and determine the method by which this copy is delivered to the Senate Committee. In view of Mr. Sprankle's rather adverse reaction to my inquiry concerning the delivery of the original to the Bureau of the Budget I decided not to question the method of delivery to the Senate Committee.

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